

D1
1. (Twice Amended) A method for modulating growth-factor receptor activation by G-protein-mediated signal transduction, comprising contacting a cell or an organism containing a growth-factor receptor capable of activation by G-protein mediated signal transduction, with a compound effecting a proteinase or a ligand precursor for the growth-factor receptor.

D2
3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the activation of the growth-factor receptor is mediated by an extracellular signal pathway.

Please cancel claims 6 and 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

D3
8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound effects the proteinase by directly stimulating or inhibiting proteinase activity.

D3
9. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said proteinase cleaves a growth-factor precursor.

D4
11. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said growth factor ligand precursor is proheparin-epidermal growth factor (proHB-EGF) and said growth-factor receptor is EGFR.

12. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said proteinase is a membrane-associated proteinase.

D4 13. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said proteinase is a metalloproteinase.

15. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said proteinase activity is inhibited by batimastat.

D5 16. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said compound effects a cell which is different from the cell containing the growth-factor receptor.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for treating a subject with a disorder associated with or accompanied by a disturbed growth factor receptor activation by G-protein mediated signal transduction, said method comprising modulating in the subject in need thereof, the growth receptor activation according to claim 1.

18. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the disorder is cancer or asthma.

19. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein a growth- factor receptor- modulating-effective amount of the compound is administered to the subject in need thereof.

20. (Amended) A method for identifying compounds for modulating growth-factor receptor activation by G-protein mediated signal transduction, comprising contacting a cell containing a growth-factor receptor capable of activation by G-protein mediated signal transduction with a test compound suspected of being a modulator of a proteinase or a ligand precursor of the growth factor receptor G-protein mediated signal transduction, and evaluating G-protein mediated growth-factor receptor activation upon exposure of the cell to the test compound.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the disturbed growth factor receptor activation is a pathologically enhanced growth receptor activation.

REMARKS

The final Office Action of October 16, 2001 has been received and carefully reviewed, and the foregoing amended claims and comments set forth below are a complete response thereto.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are all the pending claims in the application. Applicants submit that claim 2 was canceled in the response of December 13, 2000, and request that the cancellation of claim 2 be made of record.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11-13, 15-21 have been amended to more clearly recite the inventive subject matter, and Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amended Claim 1 finds support, *inter alia*, in the subject matter of canceled claims 6 and 7;